

CLAIMS

What we claim

1. A device for providing lateral separation between two strings of tubulars, comprising:

a heavy-duty cart from which tubulars can be suspended; and

rails capable of carrying said heavy-duty cart;

5 wherein movement of said cart can provide lateral separation between a string of tubulars hung from said cart and a string of tubulars in use in a drilling rig.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein said cart has an opening through one side through which tubulars can be inserted.

3. The cart of Claim 1, wherein said cart can carry a load of greater than 100 metric tons.

4. The cart of Claim 1, wherein said cart comprising a substantially rectangular base having an opening therethrough and wherein a side of said cart contains a passageway through which tubulars can be inserted into said opening.

5. An offshore drilling structure comprising:
a deck having a moonpool through which drilling can take place
rails that traverse at least a portion of said moonpool; and
a cart, moveable on said rails, from which tubulars can be suspended;
wherein movement of said cart can provide lateral separation between a string of
tubulars hung from said cart and a string of tubulars in use on said offshore drilling
structure.

6. The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said drilling structure is a
semi-submersible drill rig.

7. The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said cart comprises a
substantially rectangular base having an opening therethrough and wherein a side of said
cart contains a passageway through which a length of pipe can be inserted into said
opening

8. The offshore drilling structure of Claim 7, wherein said opening is substantially
funnel-shaped.

9. The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said cart can carry a load
greater than 100 mega-tons.

10. The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, further comprising a first hoist, which
is associated with a first load path and a first rotary table, and a second hoist, which is
associated with a second load path and a second rotary table.

11. A method of drilling a borehole from an offshore structure, said method comprising the steps of:
 - building a first string of tubulars, at a first rotary table, that will be used in a drilling a borehole, said string of tubulars extending through a moonpool that provides access to an underwater site;
 - suspending a portion of said first string of tubulars from a cart that straddles said moonpool;
 - moving said first string of tubulars laterally to obtain lateral separation between said first string of tubulars and a second string of tubulars that is in use on said offshore structure.
12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising building said first string of tubulars to include marine risers and a blow-out protector.
13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising building said second string of tubulars to include a Xmas tree assembly.
14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said offshore structure is a semi-submersible rig.